

give gratuitously professional services that conserve the health and the lives of thousands of fellow citizens?

To add to the special features of this peculiar situation, the County of Los Angeles now proposes to institute a "collection bureau" to collect fees from persons able to pay, presumably to compensate itself for giving "free medical attention," but no mention has been made to date of repaying a portion of the fees so collected to the physicians and surgeons who actually supply the professional services.

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Analogous Conditions Exist in Other County Hospitals.—The above figures and facts furnish abundant basis for serious thought. In lesser quantitative degree problems such as have been here outlined concerning the Los Angeles County General Hospital have arisen in other county hospitals in California, and to the profession and lay people of these smaller and less wealthy counties are equally important. It must be apparent that the component county medical societies in California owe it to themselves and the people to know much more than they do about their respective county hospitals.

Truly, we of the medical profession may well survey ourselves and our gratuitous services to the public. We live in a changed day and generation. It is quite possible that important readjustments are needed. If so, it is not too soon to begin to educate ourselves and lay citizens concerning more equitable methods of procedure. Otherwise we may find ourselves in the rôles of martyrs at altars given over to worship of traditions and of civilizations that are behind us.

THE NEXT CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—ITS PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE

Petitions of Candidates for California Legislature Filed Before June 26.—This coming November California will hold a state election. At that time a new legislature will be elected. There are twenty senatorial seats and eighty assembly seats to be filled. As this is written, a press dispatch from Sacramento indicates that there will be a total of some 400 candidates for these 100 positions. The petitions of all candidates must be filed before June 26.

It is important for all county medical society committees on public policy and legislation from now on until the final election is held to be alert to their responsibilities. All members of the California Medical Association also have responsibilities, for the committees on public policy and legislation are only the leaders and spokesmen in this particular work.

After June 25 the public press throughout California will print repeated items concerning candidates for the legislature. Members of the California Medical Association should clip and file such items, for they can be of real use to committeemen and others.

Every member of the California Medical Association should also make it a matter of special business not only to know who will be the candidates from his own assembly or senatorial district, but also to know as much as can be gleaned concerning the background and public health viewpoints of each candidate.

The next California Legislature should be composed of assemblymen and senators having sound views on public health and of the rights of lay citizens to be properly protected in all matters of public health.

The duty of medical men and women who would live up to their civic and professional responsibilities is very plain in all this. It is to obtain the information noted above and to send the same in personal or other memoranda to county medical society secretaries for transmittal to county and state medical society committees on public policy and legislation. Our committeemen will appreciate such cooperation greatly. To be successful in the work for which they have been appointed they must have the active support of their colleagues. They are entitled to such support and should receive it.

ON THE OWNERSHIP OF X-RAY FILMS AND PRINTS

Bedside Medicine Symposium on Ownership of Roentgen Films and Prints.—Many medico-legal viewpoints have been given on the subject of ownership of x-ray films and prints. The subject is an everpresent source of controversial discussion, both in and out of the courts. From time to time a decision that seems to clarify the situation is handed down by some court only later to be set aside, on appeal to a higher court. In a recent case which was up before one of the courts in San Francisco, the learned judge rendered a decision on a point involving x-ray films and prints, giving an opinion quite different from that generally held by medical men.

Roentgen films and prints seem to have a peculiar fascination for the members of lay juries and even to some judges, and improper understanding of films and prints may easily jeopardize the reputation of a physician or surgeon. The subject is therefore one which is of great importance to the medical profession. Readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are invited to take the time to read the symposium printed in this issue. (See page 48.)

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Some X-Ray Notices and Safeguards to Be Used by Physicians.—All malpractice cases arising in California are brought to the attention of the California Medical Association Council for consideration and discussion. The Council at its San Francisco meeting held on May 28 authorized the publication in the official journal of certain notices to which its attention had been called by Dr. Henry J. Ullmann of Santa Barbara, who had been using such in his private practice. A special committee was appointed to study these. These